The Ladder

purpose of the

Daughters of BILITIS

A WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO SOCIETY BY:

1. Education of the variant, with particular emphasis on the psychological, physiological and sociological aspects, to enable her to understand herself and make her adjustment to society in all its social, civic and economic implications—this to be accomplished by establishing and maintaining as complete a library as possible of both fiction and non-fiction literature on the sex deviant theme; by sponsoring public discussions on pertinent subjects to be conducted by leading members of the legal, psychiatric, religious and other professions; by advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society.

2. Education of the public at large through acceptance first of the individual, leading to an eventual breakdown of erroneous taboos and prejudices; through public discussion meetings aforementioned; through dissemination of educational literature on the homosexual theme.

3. Participation in research projects by duly authorized and responsible psychologists, sociologists and other such experts directed towards further knowledge of the homosexual.

4. Investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual, proposal of changes to provide an equitable handling of cases involving this minority group, and promotion of these changes through due process of law in the state legislatures.

the Ladder

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COVER BY KERRY

EDITORIAL

Perversion of Freedom

Charles H. Keating, national counsel for the Citizens' Committee for Decent Literature, which is organized in some 700 communities throughout the nation, addressed a small audience in San Francisco recently on what he called the "perversion of freedom." His thesis was that publishing of books on such perversions as homosexuality and Lesbianism is indeed a perversion of the freedoms of speech and of the press. On this basis Mr. Keating has urged local law enforcement agencies and legislators to tighten up on censorship of news stands and to draw up tougher obscenity laws. He claims that a group of attorneys is hard at work drafting a city ordinance to be submitted to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and preparing a bill for consideration by the California State Legislature. Similar action is undoubtedly being instigated in other states and cities.

We would point out to Mr. Keating that present laws concerning obscene material are adequate. Contrary to Mr. Keating's positive statement, homosexuals do not become so by reading books. The subject of homosexuality is not obscene in itself. It is only through further communication (which Mr. Keating would deny us) that this controversial subject can ever be resolved.

The perversion of freedom is the pressures exerted by the few to draft "loose obscenity laws" which would result in censorship by intimidation through the threat of easy convictions.

The perversion of freedom is to put the policeman on the beat in a position to tell the citizens of a community what they may or may not read.

The perversion of freedom is the "hysteria" of a small group of self-appointed amateur psychologists, prosecutors, and censors of public taste.

The perversion of freedom is imposing a private individual's or group's opinion regarding obscenity on the rest of the community.

Justice William O. Douglas has warned, "Once the censor enters the picture he becomes by virtue of his power the dictator...The practical exigencies of a system of censorship mean that the author writes to the standards of the censor who is beyond effective control. He writes to avoid the censor's prejudices and displeasure, if not to please him. The censor becomes the great leveller of thought. The censor sets a deadening pattern of conformity which one must meet or go out of business...The tendency is for the censor to construe his powers liberally and freely and to expand his jurisdiction...Through the ages conformity has been the great desire of every censor."

We would also quote the Bible (Romans 14:14): "I know and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him that esteemeth anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean."

There is your perversion, Mr. Keating!

- Del Martin

FREEDOM - TO - READ

A counter-committee, the Freedom-to-Read Citizens Committee, has been formed in San Francisco by Attorney Morris Lowenthal to resist any pressure group which tries to abridge the fundamental liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. Those interested in preserving their freedom to read should write to 244 California St., Rm. 711, S. F. 11.

Lesbianism and the Law

By David Hamblen, Esquire
Counsellor at Law, Massachusetts Bar

Lesbianism, or female homosexuality, has not been the subject of such extensive investigation by the law as male homosexuality has been, but even so, Lesbianism does come under legal scrutiny. A review of the reasons for legal preoccupation with male homosexuality is necessary, if the reasons for any legal preoccupation with female homosexuality are to be understood.

There appear to be two lines of legal reasoning by which male homosexuality is held illegal - first, it is not in accord with our Judaeo-Christian civilization; it is un-Christian (Romans 1:24-27; second, homosexuality may result in taking advantage of children. The first line stems from Old Testament days when it carried the death penalty (Leviticus 20:13), while the second line has to do with the enforcement of humane treatment of children, and this line is less than 250 years old.

In Old Testament days Baal was the god of the religion opposing the worship of Jehovah, and certain rites of the priests of Baal were of a homosexual nature. Hence, male homosexuality became significant of adherence to the religion hostile to the worship of Jehovah, or treason to God (1 Kings:12).

Hence, male homosexuality is punished because it is treason to God. By analogy female homosexuality was held by Saint Paul to be un-Christian (Romans 1:26).

When the Roman Empire was Christianized, male homosexuality was punished by death (Corpus Juris Civilis, Institutionum Justianiani Lib IV Tit XVIII De Publicis Judiciis, 533 A.D.). When England was Christianized, male homosexuality was punished by burning the guilty one alive (Laws of King Edgar 77, c. 970 A.D.).

In England during the Middle Ages male homosexuality was concurrently under the ecclesiastical and the common law courts (1 Hawk Pleas to the Crown, Chap. 4); Henry VIII took male homosexuality into the common law courts by statute (25 Hen. VIII, Chap. 6, 1533-34). The Colony of Massachusetts Bay adopted the definitions in the King James Bible (Colonial Laws, Sec. 7-8, 1649), which were restated in the Province of Massachusetts Bay (Chap. 1, 1697) and again restated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Chap. 46, Sec. 1, 1784).

Until 1718 male homosexuality in England was treated exactly in accordance with the law of Leviticus; in that year the rather obscure reasoning in Forbes Reports 91 (England) would seem to show the beginning of a line of cases to prevent taking advantage of children. The idea was borrowed from the law of rape in which it is held that the crime is commited when a girl is too young to consent.

The death penalty for male homosexuality was abolished in Massachusetts in 1804 (Chap. 133, 1804), and a stiff prison term was substituted. In England the death penalty for male homosexuality was abolished in 1861 (24 & 25 Victoria, Chap. 100).

Judges have stated plainly the reason for punishing male homosexuality to be that it is treason to God (Russell on Crimes, Vol. 1, P. 976, 7th English Ed.). In English law the old French maxim states that male homosexuality "est crime de majeste vers le roy celestre," which means treason to God (Peloubet's Legal Maxims citing 3 Inst. 58).

As Lesbianism was not recognized in the Old Testament, it was not generally punishable by Christian courts, but of course there were exceptions. In France during the late Middle Ages two Lesbians were burned at the stake, presumably because of Saint Paul's reasoning by analogy (Romans 1:26).

It was not until the statute of 1861 (ubi supra) that female homosexuality was recognized as a crime and became punishable in England, although the statute applies

only where one party does not or can not consent, as through lack of age (Rex versus Hare, 1 King's Bench, Page 354 C. C. A., 1934). England has another statute under which children are protected (12-13 Geo. V., Chap. 56, 1922), and England has not made the crime of female homosexuality any broader (Earl of Halsbury: Laws of England, 1941, Suppl. Vol. 9, Part XI, Sec. 1095).

In 1887 Massachusetts also passed an act broadening the crime of homosexuality, and that includes Lesbianism even when children are not involved (Laws of Mass., Chap. 272, Sec. 35, 1932). In a general way the farther West the jurisdiction and the more recently enacted the laws, the broader and more inclusive appears the trend of these statutes (Sec. 2456, Rem. Com. Stat., State of Washington versus Frey, Aug. 17, 1932; Glover versus State, 179 Ind. 459, 1913 - also stated in 101 Northeastern Reporter 629 at 632).

These later cases do not seem to draw a line between protection of children and the ideas of male homosexuality applied analagously to Lesbianism. The broadening of the statutes so that Lesbianism, even when children are not involved, is now practically universally declared to be a crime in the United States is a development mostly in the 20th Century. It is noteworthy that by modern decisions prosecutions for homosexuality are the only cases in which rules of law and of evidence are not interpreted liberally on behalf of the accused; the rules are construed as rigidly as possible against the accused and circumstantial evidence may convict (Connell versus State, 19 Northeastern Reporter, 2d series, 267, 1939).

On the other hand, it may be said that the law in general does not deal as harshly with women as it does with men. Public prosecutors as a rule are not anxious to take notice of cases of Lesbianism unless they become too notorious or unless they involve children (however the statute may define a child) or unless pressure is brought to bear.

This is particularly because there is a growing feeling that homosexuality is a mental illness, and a plea of insanity is a common defense. Whether homosexuality is

a result of heredity or of environment or of both heredity and environment, psychiatrists may not agree, but psychiatrists do agree that homosexuality is a mental illness and subject to psychiatric treatment.

Lesbians often have a strong desire to be accepted by society, but there is a gulf between a more or less sympathetic attitude currently on the part of the law courts and acceptance by society. As Lesbianism particularly in modern times seems to be linked by analogy more and more with treason to God (at least people seem to feel that way about it), religious conservatives consider Lesbians to be criminals, while religious liberals (including Humanists) consider Lesbians to be mentally ill persons; it is to be feared that acceptance by our Judaeo-Christian society would be problematical.

* * * * *

'APHRODITE' RECORDING AVAILABLE

The DOB Book and Record Service has had many requests for APHRODITE, a recording of the SONGS OF BILITIS by Pierre Louys. There are two different albums taken from this very lyric poem. The American Record Guide said this record was a "daring enterprise...the most sensuous voice in the entire microgroove catalogue...handsomely executed." Both of the records are of the highest artistic caliber and taste.

AND both of the records are available! The established list price is $4.98 each; however, the DOB Book Service is not in a position financially to make an advance "quantity" order. The cash outlay is prohibitive.

BUT if we receive enough ADVANCE orders with check attached, we will order these records for distribution through the Book Service.

Those of you who are interested in obtaining copies of these records, please send $4.98 (add 4% sales tax in California) to DOB Book Service, 165 O'Farrell St., Rm. 405, San Francisco 2, California. Advance orders will not require the usual handling charge. Those orders for single albums will be considered as orders for Volume 1 only.

Exit Laughing

A STORY BY JAN ADDISON

"ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS REMAKE OF 'FINAL FLIGHT'?" OLD "GREAT MOGUL'S" BASS ROAR FILLED EVEN HIS COLOSSAL PLUSHY OFFICE.

DARE AMORY GAVE HIM THE SLOW NOD AND IRONIC GRIN SO LOVED BY FANS AND IMITATED BY TEENAGERS FROM END TO END OF THE COUNTRY. "THAT'S RIGHT, G.M." SHE KNEW HOW HIS NICKNAME TICKLED HIM AND HOW LITTLE HE'D LIKE THE REST SHE HAD TO SAY. "YOU'LL NEVER GET ME INTO IT UNLESS..."

"MIGOD, GIRL, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?" HE WAS BELLOWING NOW. "YOU KNOW WHAT THE BOX-OFFICE TAKE WAS ON THE 1940 JOB WITH GAIL HAYDON? AND YOU'D BEAT HER - MORE THE TYPE. NOT THAT YOU LOOK LIKE AMANDA GEBHARD, THANK GOD, BUT..."

"I WISH I DID!"

"CHRIST, YOU <u>ARE</u> FLIPPING!... WHAT I MEAN, YOUR BUILD, THAT WALK YOU CAN PUT ON, THE WHOLE EFFECT. GET YOU IN THOSE FLYER'S SUITS, THEATERS'LL NEED BUILT-IN RIOT SQUADS TO HOLD THE BOBBY-SOXERS. YOU PASS THIS UP, YOU BELONG IN THE LOONY BIN."

"OK, G.M., MAYBE THAT'S WHERE I'LL END UP. BUT I MEAN IT, I'LL NEVER PLAY 'FINAL FLIGHT' UNLESS THE ENDING IS CHANGED."

"<u>CHANGE THE END</u>? WHAT'S THAT BUT THE WHOLE DAMN POINT OF THE STORY? BUTCHY, HARD-MOUTHED DAME, 'ANYTHING A MAN CAN DO I CAN DO BETTER.' WINS ALL THE TROPHIES, SOLOS THE ATLANTIC, MARRIES A MILLIONAIRE WHO CAN BUY HER ALL THE PLANES AND LICENSES SHE WANTS. SO WHAT'S LEFT BUT THE PACIFIC? MAD AS HELL BECAUSE SHE CAN'T SOLO THAT, AND BIG BRASS WON'T OK A DAME FOR HER CO-PILOT. SO TAKES IT OUT ON THE POOR GUY THAT'S STUCK IN WITH HER, MAKES HIM NOTHING BUT A GREASE-MONKEY. ONLY ALL THE TIME SHE'S GETTING MEANER, UNDERNEATH SHE REALLY WANTS HIM BUT DON'T KNOW IT. SO THEY CRASH ON SOME ISLAND, HE SAVES HER, HER SHELL

CRACKS, AND SHE FINDS HERE'S SOMETHING A MAN CAN DO THAT SHE CAN'T!"

"AND THAT'S WHAT'S ALL WRONG. AMANDA GEBHARD WASN'T LIKE THAT. SHE DIDN'T END UP THAT WAY. SHE COULDN'T."

"SO, 'VAS YOU DERE, CHARLIE?!"

"I KNEW HER, NOT PERSONALLY. THOUGH I DID SEE HER ONCE WHEN I WAS ABOUT FOUR. ONE OF MY AUNTS WENT TO COLLEGE WITH HER. BUT SHE WAS MY IDEAL. I READ EVERYTHING IN PRINT ABOUT HER WHILE SHE WAS ALIVE AND AFTER. SHE'D NEVER GIVE A TUMBLE TO THAT..."

"OK, MISS REWRITE, LET'S HAVE YOUR SCRIPT."

DARE SHUDDERED A LITTLE AT THE OMINOUSLY QUIET SARCASM, SO MUCH WORSE THAN HIS ROARS. "IT WOULD HARDLY NEED CHANGING AT ALL, UNLESS MY MEMORY IS A WASHOUT, AND I'VE SEEN IT HALF A DOZEN TIMES ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. THE DIFFERENCE WOULD BE IN THE WAY GEBHARD WAS PLAYED. INSTEAD OF COCKY AND ARROGANT WITH A BIG 'DOWN' ON MEN, YOU'D DO HER AS SOMEBODY WITH...VISION. JUST TWO BIG THINGS IN HER LIFE: FLYING AND PROVING THAT WOMEN AREN'T JUST FEMALES. I KNOW SHE MARRIED ENDICOTT, BUT HE WAS OLD ENOUGH TO BE HER FATHER. HE GAVE HER COMPLETE FREEDOM; HE LOVED HER... HER DEDICATION. HIS FIRST WIFE WAS A WOMEN'S COLLEGE PRESIDENT, REMEMBER. HE LIKED WOMEN WITH SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR BESIDES MEN."

"HEAR, HEAR, BILLY GRAHAM, JUNIOR. BUT WITH A LINE LIKE THAT, WHAT'S THE ENDING?"

"WELL, IF SHE'S BEEN DECENT TO HER CO-PILOT...IF YOU'VE WORKED UP A FEELING OF COMPLETE RESPECT AND ADMIRATION BETWEEN THEM... IF THEY'RE REAL BUDDIES BY THE TIME THEY CRASH, YOU'D SHOW THEM CLINGING TO THE LAST SCRAPS OF FLOATING WRECKAGE, PRETTY WELL BANGED UP, WASHED OVER BY THOSE AWFUL PACIFIC WAVES, AND...JUST SAYING, 'GOODBYE AND HAPPY LANDINGS.'" TO HER FURY HER VOICE THICKENED. "WE COULD JERK TEARS WITH THAT, ALL RIGHT," SHE ENDED, WITH A FAIR IMITATION OF EVERYBODY'S OCCUPATIONAL CYNICISM.

"AND HAVE THE WHOLE THING JUST ONE GODDAM DOCUMENTARY," THE GREAT MOGUL SAID IN A VOICE LIKE COLD STEEL. AS HE STARED AT HER UNDER

LEVEL LIDS SHE SAW FOR THE FIRST TIME WHAT SHE HAD HEARD CALLED HIS "SNAKE'S EYES". SHE HAD THOUGHT THE PHRASE A RANK LIBEL. AFTER FIVE YEARS OF BEING HIS WHITE-HEADED PET, SHE KNEW AT LAST WHY HE WAS FEARED. AND NOW SHE WAS FRIGHTENED AND BEGINNING TO FEEL VERY COLD.

"WELL, BABY, I GUESS WE'VE HAD IT," HE WENT ON WITH THE IDENTICAL VOICE AND LOOK. "YOU'VE MADE MONEY FOR US - AND GOD KNOWS WE'VE MADE AN ACTRESS OF YOU. OUT OF A SKINNY SCARECROW HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN WITH NOTHING BUT BRASS-PLATED NERVE AND A DIETRICH KIND OF VOICE." HE TOOK A CORONA FROM THE HAND-TOOLED HUMIDOR, VERY DELIBERATELY PIERCED IT, LIT IT, AND VEILED HIMSELF IN A CLOUD OF RICH SMOKE. "BUT...YOU'RE NOT A SCRIPT WRITER, AND YOU'RE NOT BOSS OF COLOSSAL-UNIVERSAL. SO MAYBE YOU'D BETTER SET UP AS ANOTHER INDEPENDENT PRODUCER, BECAUSE WHEN I FINISH TALKING WITH MY FRIENDS - AND ENEMIES - THERE WON'T BE A LOT OF STUDIO DOORS OPEN TO YOU." AFTER ANOTHER SLOW MOMENT HE ENDED, HARDLY ABOVE A WHISPER, "YOU GODDAM DYKE."

DARE AMORY ROSE TO HER FULL FIVE-EIGHT WITH THE EASY GRACE HER FIVE-YEAR SLAVE SENTENCE HAD TAUGHT HER. "THANK YOU, G.M.," SHE GRINNED, AS OFFHAND AS IF HE HAD TOSSED HER ONE OF HIS LUSH COMPLIMENTS. SHE WALKED OUT OF THE COLOSSAL PLUSHY OFFICE WITH THE GAIT HE WANTED HER TO USE FOR GEBHARD. SHE SCATTERED A TRAIL OF CASUAL GREETINGS BEHIND HER AS SHE WENT THROUGH THE OUTER OFFICES. INSIDE THE FRONT ENTRANCE SHE SHUT HERSELF IN A PHONE BOOTH AND DIALED.

WHEN A SOFT TEXAS DRAWL ANSWERED, SHE SAID AS SOFTLY, "CONNIE, DO YOU REALLY MEAN IT ABOUT THAT RANCH, ALL YOU'VE BEEN SAYING?"

"DO I! BUT, GOOD LORD, YOU DARE-DEVIL, WHAT'S UP? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?"

"I'VE JUST BEEN FIRED. TELL YOU LATER. AND NOT ALL OF A SUDDEN. I'M SICK TO DEATH OF THE WHOLE RAT RACE. HAVING TO WEAR COIFFURES AND CHIFFONS AND BE PAWED ON AND OFF THE SET BY SLAVERING WOLVES AND ACT AS IF I LAAHVED IT! WILL YOU RISK RETIRING ON WHAT WE'VE GOT SAVED? BECAUSE IF 'YES,' I'VE GOT TO SEE A LAWYER AND A BANK.

"WE'VE GOT SAVED? YOU KNOW GOOD'N'WELL WHAT THERE IS IN MY SAV-

INGS. BUT - I'LL EVEN RISK LETTING YOU 'KEEP' ME, IF WE CAN JUST GET OUT OF THIS...THIS...OH, HURRY HOME!"

"I'M ON MY WAY."

ONE OF THE MESSENGERS, RUNNING INTO HER AS SHE BURST OUT, GASPED AN APOLOGY. AND THEN, "JEEZ, MISS AMORY, YOU GOT AN OSCAR OR GOT ENGAGED OR SOMETHIN'? YOU'RE SHOOTIN' OFF STARS!"

"NOPE, BUSTER, I'M MARRIED," SHE TOSSED OVER HER SHOULDER AS SHE RAN FOR HER WHITE MERCEDES. AND BY THE TIME THAT GETS BACK TO HEDDA, SHE THOUGHT GLEEFULLY AS SHE RAN, DONNA JONES AND CONSTANCE MORTON WILL BE SAFE IN A SHABBY LITTLE SHACK HIGH UP IN THE VALLEY. AND WHO'LL KNOW THEY'RE DARE AMORY AND SECRETARY?

I'M VERY SELF-CONSCIOUS. I OFTEN FEEL THAT PEOPLE ARE LAUGHING AT ME.

mood miscellanea

PETITION

GIVE ME A BLACK NIGHT
WHEN THE MOON STALKS THE SKY
A GOLDEN CONQUEROR;
    THE PEAL OF SUMMER THUNDER,
    THE BROODING WHISPER OF AUTUMN LEAVES.
    THE ROAR OF WINTER'S ICY BLAST.
PERMIT ME A LONELY STRETCH OF BEACH
WHERE DRIFTWOOD LIES WAITING
TO BE GATHERED AND BURNED
UNTIL ITS FLAMES RIVAL THE STARS.
    LET ME KNOW THE SHADOWS
    DENSE AND OCCULT CHARM
    WHERE I MAY MEDITATE
    AND DISCOVER THE PATH TO WISDOM.
ALLOW ME THE BEAUTY OVERLOOKED BY OTHERS,
I'LL SEEK THE SPLENDOR OF NATURE'S WRATH
AND CROWN MY LOVE WITH NIGHT BLOOMING CEREUS,
WHILE WEAKER SOULS GATHER THE PALE MORNING-GLORIES
AND CLAIM THE ETERNAL BRILLIANCE OF THE SUN.

- CAROL HALES

SO LONG IT SEEMED

SO LONG IT SEEMED
THE WALLS OF DAILY ROUNDS
SHUT OFF OUR LOVE.
AND THEN LAST NIGHT,
IN THE DARK
CLOISTERED WARMTH,
YOUR SILKEN SKIN BENEATH MY HANDS.
THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR CLOSENESS
WAS MIRRORED IN THE URGINGS OF THE FLESH.

- D.M.L.

SONNET IV

JUST YOU AND I. LET'S BOTH ESCAPE THE HEAT,
CLIMB UP A HILL AND LOVE TILL DAY IS DONE,
UP WHERE THE CORN IS GOLD AGAINST THE SUN.
PLANT DEEP IN EARTH OUR BARE AND THIRSTY FEET.
JUST YOU AND I, FRESH WITH THE SMELL OF YOUTH,
MUSKED WITH THE SCENT OF HUMAN PASSION FLOWER,
WON'T HEED THE RUMBLE FROM AN IVORY TOWER.
NOR FIND A FARMING TERM SO MUCH UNCOUTH
RIGHT WHERE THE EARTH LIES PLAIN AND UNASHAMED
OF SEED OR DEW OR VARIED PROGENY.
GO WHERE THE PLOW HER BROWNISH CRUST HAS CLAIMED
THE BOUNTY OF HER GOLDEN CHARITY.
JUST YOU AND I - FORGET THE OTHER THINGS -
LOST IN THE RAPTURE OF A MILLION SPRINGS.

- ARTEMIS SMITH

WHY I AM GAY

GRANDMA INSISTS IT'S HEREDITARY,
MOTHER'S SIDE ISN'T ORDINARY.
DADDY SWEARS THE FAULT IS MOTHER'S,
SHE ALWAYS FAVOURED MY BROTHERS.
MOTHER EXPLAINS THE BLAME IS DAD'S,
HIS LACK OF DISCIPLINE WAS BAD.
MY DOCTOR DECLARES, JUST A PHASE.
OUR MINISTER SAYS, BADLY RAISED.
THE ANALYST THINKS I NEED A BEAU,
BUT IT WAS BECAUSE OF LOVE, I KNOW!

- MORGEN FITZGERALD

THE WORD

Gay. The word connoted too closely a participation in what the "outsiders" called the world of fairies and queers. And to my timid friend and me any such inference to ourselves was brutal, unwarranted, and absolutely true; hence, the problem of finding another derivative in order best to avoid complications. We sought the perfect word to tag the gay man or woman without at the same time revealing so much as a normal curiosity.

Nonetheless, a normal curiosity we didn't lack, and it became imperative that in order to satisfy same we must come up with a word, be it Hindu, Hebrew, or plain Hoboken, that'd fulfill our need. First we'd thought colors. Blue? Somehow it has a kinship with gay, due, I would say, to its very contrariness. How can you feel blue and be gay? or feel gay and be blue? Green. He's a green? That didn't seem sensible, somehow.

Perhaps a shape. The hipster uses the word square, doesn't he? But the word "round" sounded ridiculous in that sense. We scratched it off. (Try using rectangle. There's a sound of confusion about it--tangled wrecks or something.)

A few days of search went by (about sixty). It occurred to us that to coin a word wouldn't do, either, the reason being that if we should say something like she's a "kokopandoon," we'd arouse that normal curiosity I was talking about. And for a word like "kokopandoon" how else can two normal people like my timid friend and me interpret it to mean anything but gay?

All else chucked from the list, we were nearly at the end of our hope when by some fluke we had the good fortune of meeting a friend of a friend who, it would seem, hailed from Boston. The good fortune had little, if anything, to do with either the character or the personality of the friend of a friend - but that indeed he hailed from Boston. Not that there was anything unique about that. It was even true (anybody would've

known it if they thought about it) that the Bostonian was as far from gayhood as, let us say, Vatican City is from Acapulco. Back home, he told us, he had done something or other in a boot and shoe factory. All I could think of at the time was smelly feet and all I said was that it seemed like a good occupation.

The idea of the new name for gay guys and gals didn't come to me right away. It came, in fact, while I was occupied with my toilet, after I'd washed a couple of unmentionables, followed by socks. It was while doing the latter, I think, that the toe passed the heel on its way inside out. "Bostonian!" I think I screamed, and a feeling of warm satisfaction came over me.

Having told my friend next day, she too seemed pleased at the appropriateness. The somehow puritanical connotation could nowhere be misunderstood (or, in our application, understood).

Boss-tone-ian. (Note the affinity here of "ian" with that of another "forbidden" gay word.) And so, Bostonian it became. We were no longer harassed by a word beyond our reach, knowing that here at last was a word for our use. Non-suspect. Plain. Ordinary. A word that didn't arouse too much interest or curiosity as maybe "kokopandoon" just might have. Indeed, our very first chance to use the word was thrilling. Have you ever thought what it'd be like to shout in church just before the passing of the plate? That's what it was like, using "our" word for the first time.

We used the word frequently after that, savoring our secret, enjoying it, applying it to all whom we suspected of "being." (Sometimes I think we overestimated the number just so we could use the word.) Then it happened. Somewhere along the line, it happened. We began to regard the word as we had first regarded all other words in reference to gay people. To say "Bostonian" we might have been saying queer, fairy, butch, dyke, flit, and on and on ad infinitum. It'd suddenly become taboo to us. When using it we'd come to a whisper so minute that it was shaping our breath around the sound, so that only my timid friend and I would know what we were talking about or suggesting.

We hadn't thrown it out altogether when one day a friend who made a threesome on a shopping jaunt appeared puzzled. Hastily and with too much fervor I had referred to a saleswoman as a Bostonian, when friend number three looked askance at me and cautioned that perhaps I'd been working too hard. How could one mistake a "you all" and a "sho-nuff" for Boston?

Needless to say I've never since used the word, and've decided that 'tis better to be caught in a truth lest you be caught in a lie. Nevertheless, to this day, when a man is referred to as a Bostonian I must remind myself that indeed he must be from Boston. (But sometimes I have my suspicions.)

- Diana Sterling

On Censorship

IN THE INTEREST OF DISCLOSING A SINGLE SMALL BUT UGLY CASE OF CENSORSHIP SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AT LESBIANISM, I WOULD LIKE TO ACQUAINT YOUR READERS WITH THE HISTORY OF A RECENT NOVEL.

IN 1958, THE FRENCH PUBLISHER, GRASSET, BROUGHT OUT A NOVEL ENTITLED LE REPOS DU GUERRIER. THIS NOVEL, WRITTEN BY A YOUNG FRENCHWOMAN, CHRISTIANE ROCHEFORT, WAS AN IMMEDIATE SUCCESS, A BEST-SELLER, AND WAS WELL RECEIVED CRITICALLY. IT SUBSEQUENTLY WON THE AWARD CALLED "LE PRIX DE LA NOUVELLE VAGUE". THIS SUCCESS CAUSED THE AMERICAN PUBLISHER, DAVID MCKAY, TO PURCHASE RIGHTS TO IT AND IT WAS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY LOWELL BAIR AND PUBLISHED AS WARRIOR'S REST IN 1959. THE BOOK WAS WELL RECEIVED BUT NOT NEARLY SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY AS IT HAD BEEN IN ITS ORIGINAL VERSION. IN 1960 THE BOOK WAS REPRINTED BY FAWCETT (CREST) AS A PAPERBACK.

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE PUBLISHED FRENCH VERSION AND THE PUBLISHED ENGLISH (AMERICAN) VERSION, THE CENSORS' SCISSORS DID THEIR WORK. IN THE ORIGINAL FRENCH NOVEL IT IS THE STORY OF A LOVELY YOUNG FRENCHWOMAN WITH A HIGHLY LESBIAN BACKGROUND WHO INADVERTENTLY SAVES THE LIFE OF A BEATNIK-TYPE ALCOHOLIC MALE. HE HAS A

POWERFUL PERSONALITY AND HE SEDUCES HER AND GRADUALLY WOOS HER INTO A PERIOD OF HETEROSEXUALITY. WHEN HE FINDS HER BECOMING BORED, HE INTRODUCES A WOMAN INTO THEIR LIFE AND HIMSELF TAKES THE ROLE OF VOYEUR. THEN NEAR THE END OF THE BOOK A BOY-GIRL OF GREAT BEAUTY AND CHARM, WHO AFFECTS "MEN THROUGH THEIR MINDS AND WOMEN THROUGH THEIR SENSES," APPEARS ON THE SCENE AND THE HEROINE REVERTS TO EMOTIONAL LESBIANISM AT ONCE.

IN THE ENGLISH (AMERICAN) TRANSLATION, ALMOST ALL REFERENCE TO THE HEROINE'S PAST LIFE IS CUT OUT ALTOGETHER SO THAT THE READER DOES NOT REALIZE HER LESBIAN NATURE. SOME REFERENCE TO LESBIANISM IS LEFT IN THE CENTER SECTION, BUT ONLY THE EPISODES INSTIGATED BY THE MAN IN HIS ATTEMPT TO DEGRADE THE HEROINE. EVEN MORE DESPICABLE, THE ENDING IS ALTERED TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE MAN ATTRACTS THE YOUNG GIRL RATHER THAN THE HEROINE.

THE CRITIC WHO REVIEWED WARRIOR'S REST FOR THE LONDON TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT HAS THIS TO SAY ABOUT THE DELIBERATE CENSORSHIP: "A CURIOUS CENSORSHIP HAS BEEN AT WORK IN THIS TRANSLATION. PAGES ARE CUT WHICH DESCRIBE THE HEROINE'S SEXUAL EXPERIENCE OF HER OWN SEX, AND THEREBY MUCH OF THE POINT OF THIS (COLETTE-LIKE) FICTION IS MISSED. THIS IS EXTREMELY RELEVANT TO THE GAMINE WHO APPEARS TOWARD THE END TO ENCHANT THE OUTSIDE HERO. THE FRENCH ORIGINAL MAKES IT CLEAR THAT IT IS THE HEROINE WHO IS ATTRACTED TO THE GIRL." (MARCH 11, 1960, P. 166)

IT IS PERHAPS PERMISSIBLE FOR A TRANSLATOR TO OMIT TEDIOUS DESCRIPTION OR TRIVIA FROM A NOVEL, BUT NOT TO DELETE MATERIAL ESSENTIAL TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE BASIC CONCEPTS OF THE PLOT, NOR TO OMIT ANYTHING THAT WILL MAKE THE READING OF THE BOOK LESS MURKY AND UNCLEAR. AN OCCURRENCE OF THIS KIND IS DESPICABLE IN A WORLD - A COUNTRY - SUPPOSEDLY DEDICATED TO FREEDOM.

- GENE DAMON AND LEE STUART

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LESBIANA

BY GENE DAMON

155. NIGHT MUSIC BY SVEN STOLPE. SHEED AND WARD, 1960.

REGINA, REJECTED DAUGHTER OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF AN UNNAMED MODERN STATE, TURNS FOR LOVE AND AFFECTION TO ISABELLE. REGINA AND ISABELLE CARRY ON A NEARLY - BUT NOT QUITE - CONSUMMATED LOVE AFFAIR WHICH ENDS WHEN ISABELLE SUPPOSEDLY BECOMES CHASTE THROUGH RELIGION. MURKY AND SAD BUT VERY WELL WRITTEN. BOTH WOMEN ARE INTELLIGENT, ADULT, AND AWARE OF THEIR MUTUAL ATTRACTION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS. THIS IS POSSIBLY THE VERY FIRST TIME AN ALL-CATHOLIC PRESS HAS PUBLISHED A NOVEL DEALING DIRECTLY WITH LESBIANISM. IT IS SURPRISING THAT THE TONE IS NOT NEARLY SO CONDEMNATORY AS ONE MIGHT EXPECT FROM A CATHOLIC PRESS, CONSIDERING THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH'S OPINIONS ON THE SUBJECT.

156. THE LITERATURE OF POSSIBILITY BY HAZEL E. BARNES. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS, 1959.

DR. BARNES IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AND IS AN AUTHORITY ON EXISTENTIALISM AND JEAN-PAUL SARTRE. THIS BOOK DISCUSSES THE FICTIONAL WORKS OF SARTRE, CAMUS, AND SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR THOROUGHLY AND INCLUDES COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF THE HOMOSEXUAL AND LESBIAN COMPONENTS IN BOTH SARTRE'S WORK AND SOME OF DE BEAUVOIR'S WORK. FOR THE SCHOLAR ONLY, AS IT IS ROUGH GOING IN SOME SPOTS. WELL WORTH IT, THOUGH, FOR A COMPLETE PICTURE OF AN IMPORTANT PHASE IN WORLD LITERATURE.

157. HALL OF DEATH BY NEDRA TYRE. SIMON AND SCHUSTER, 1960.

AN EXCELLENT CHILLING MYSTERY SET IN A GIRLS' REFORMATORY. THERE ARE VARIANT TOUCHES IN THE COMPLICATED PLOT AND A CLEARLY LESBIAN DEVOTION ON THE PART OF ONE GIRL. TOLD BY A MORE-THAN-SYMPATHETIC TEACHER WHO HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF THE GIRL'S EMOTION.

READER'S RESPOND

"NOT TO START ANOTHER CONTROVERSY GOING, BUT ... THERE WERE SOME BLATANT INACCURACIES IN THE LESBIANA COLUMN OF THE OCTOBER ISSUE. CORRECTIONS, PLEASE! THE YOUNG AND INNOCENT DOES NOT DEPICT 'A SUCCESSFUL LESBIAN MARRIAGE'. LAVINIA CARTWRIGHT AND SANDRA KEEL ARE NOT 'FULLY ADULT AND INTELLIGENT WOMEN'. THERE IS NO 'UNUSUAL ASPECT OF THE LESBIAN RELATIONSHIP' IN THIS BOOK, AND FURTHER - ONE DOES NOT 'HOPE TO SEE MORE FROM THIS AUTHOR' (BE IT MAN OR WOMAN)!

"WHAT HAPPENED TO GENE DAMON? TRYING TO SELL FOR THE DOB BOOK SERVICE?"

L. P., CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

"EVERY COVER-TO-COVER READING OF THE LADDER LEAVES ME WITH A NAGGING IN MY BRAIN THAT ALL IS NOT RIGHT WITH THE ENDEAVORS OF THE DOB. NOW, TO MY SATISFACTION, I HAVE PUT THE FINGER ON THE CAUSE OF MY DISQUIET. I OBJECT TO THE MERELY LESBIAN APPROACH. I PREFER TO SEE THE PROBLEM OF THE LESBIAN AS AN ASPECT OF THE LARGER PROBLEM OF SOCIETY TODAY: CONFORMITY - THE NEGLECT OF THE INDIVIDUALISTIC IMPULSE THAT ALONE LEADS TO CREATIVITY AND THE ULTIMATE ENRICHMENT OF CULTURE.

"HOW MANY OF US LESBIANS WOULD NOW BE BURIED IN DESPAIRING CONFORMITY, KNOWING NOT WHENCE OUR DESPAIR, IF WE HAD BEEN BORN HETEROSEXUAL? AS IT IS, OUR CONFORMITY IS HIGHLY CONSCIOUS, ARTIFICIAL, AND DECIDEDLY DISTASTEFUL. WERE WE NOT HOMOSEXUAL, MANY OF US WOULD HAVE NEITHER THE INTELLIGENCE NOR THE SENSITIVITY TO SEE DEEPLY THE PLIGHT OF MODERN MASS MAN.

"THE LADDER MAKES MUCH OF THE PROBLEM OF INTEGRATING LESBIANS INTO SOCIETY AT THE SAME TIME THAT PROBING MINDS IN THE HETEROSEXUAL WORLD DECRY THE PRESENT TREND TOWARD DEHUMANIZATION

(OTHER-DIRECTEDNESS, ORGANIZATION MAN, ETC.). FRANZ ALEXANDER, IN THE WESTERN MIND IN TRANSITION DEPLORES AMONG OTHER THINGS THE ATROPHY OF MEN'S PRIVATE LIVES. NOT EVEN IN HIS OWN HOME IS A MAN ENCOURAGED TO BE HIMSELF - TO PURSUE HIS OWN UNIQUE BEING.

"WHAT AT ONE TIME TO MOST OF US SEEMED A CURSE IS PERHAPS A BLESSING TO ALL. WE AS LESBIANS KNOW IN A VERY PERSONAL WAY SOMETHING ABOUT RETAINING AND DEVELOPING OUR PARTICULAR IDENTITIES. PERHAPS INSTEAD OF PLEADING, 'PLEASE, WORLD, ACCEPT US - WE'RE REALLY VERY NICE AND NOT A BIT DIFFERENT' WE SHOULD SAY, 'LOOK, WORLD, WE UNDERSTAND THE AGONY OF LOSING WHAT EACH OF YOU FINDS BEST IN YOURSELF AND WE CAN HELP YOU TO BE UNAFRAID OF YOUR UNIQUENESS!'"

R. L., CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

"I HAVE BEEN PLEASED IN THE LAST FEW ISSUES OF THE LADDER TO SEE THE 'BORDERLAND' LESBIAN ARTICLES. I AM CERTAINLY NOT AN AUTHORITY ON ANY SUBJECT, BUT FROM MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND JUDGING FROM REMARKS MADE BY MY FRIENDS WHO ARE MARRIED, I BELIEVE THE MAJORITY OF THE 'BORDERLAND' LESBIANS ARE THAT JUST BECAUSE OF IGNORANCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY.

"I ENJOYED JAY WALLACE'S ARTICLE AND FULLY AGREE WITH HER WHEN SHE SAYS THAT 'THE TRUE LESBIAN CANNOT TELL YOU "WHY" IN SO MANY GLIB PHRASES.'

"I HAVE BEEN MARRIED 13 YEARS AND HAVE FOUR CHILDREN. THEY HAVE BEEN MISERABLE YEARS OF FEAR AND GUILT BECAUSE OF MY INADEQUACY AS A WIFE AND MOTHER. I BELIEVE I CAN HONESTLY SAY THAT I AM AS GOOD A MOTHER AS I CAN POSSIBLY BE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. STILL THE FACT REMAINS, MY HUSBAND IS A VERY UNHAPPY MAN ALTHOUGH HE IS UNDERSTANDING. IT PUTS A STRAIN ON THE FAMILY AS A WHOLE, FOR, AS GEORGINA LLOYD WROTE, 'I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CURE MYSELF OF WHAT I AM - A MASCULINE SOUL, WITH MASCULINE DESIRES, IN A FEMININE BODY.'

"BUT MAY I SAY THAT WE MARRIED LESBIANS CERTAINLY DO NOT LIVE IN THE WORLD OF SUNSHINE. TRUE, LOVE AND DUTY BRINGS US BACK, BUT

WE LIVE IN A HOUSE WITH THE WINDOWS SO DIRTY THAT ONLY A FEEBLE LIGHT COMES THROUGH."

B. H., OREGON

* * * * *

"THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF TIMES WHEN I HAVE TAKEN EXCEPTION TO THE REVIEWS IN THE LESBIANA. I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING TO DATE, BUT THE REVIEW OF YOUNG AND INNOCENT IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE WAS THE LAST STRAW. ON THE STRENGTH OF YOUR REPORT THAT THE AUTHOR EXAMINES 'A SUCCESSFUL LESBIAN MARRIAGE', I ORDERED A COPY FROM YOUR BOOK SERVICE. NET RESULT - ONE BIG QUESTION: DID GENE DAMON REALLY READ THIS BOOK?

"IF SHE DID, PERHAPS SHE CAN TELL ME JUST HOW SHE CAME TO 'DELIBERATELY, ILLOGICALLY AND WRONGFULLY' USE THESE WORDS IN REFERENCE TO THE YOUNG AND INNOCENT? DOES SHE REALLY CONSIDER A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON 'LONELINESS', DECEIT AND BLACKMAIL 'SUCCESSFUL'? PERHAPS MISS DAMON SHOULD TAKE UP THE STUDY OF SEMANTICS ... I DON'T THINK WE'RE SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE!"

M. D., CALIFORNIA

* * * *

"SORRY, BUT I THINK YOU'VE MISSED THE BOAT. YES, I'M REFERRING TO THE DOB'S RECENT CORRESPONDENCE WITH MAYOR CHRISTOPHER, THE POLICE CHIEF'S REPLY, AND THE COMMENTS IN THE OCTOBER LADDER REGARDING THIS MATTER. TO BE BLUNT, NOWHERE IN THE REPLY BY CHIEF CAHILL, AS IT WAS PRINTED, WAS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THAT OFFICIALDOM IS GOING TO APPLY 'A LITTLE MORE UNDERSTANDING'.

"NOW LET'S BE REALISTIC. HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR IS CONSIDERED SOCIALLY DEVIANT BEHAVIOR. BY THAT I MEAN IT IS CONTRARY TO THE INSTITUTIONALIZED NORMS OF SOCIETY. ROBERT K. MERTON, ONE OF THE FOREMOST SOCIOLOGISTS IN THE UNITED STATES, HAS THIS TO SAY ABOUT THE LIBERALISM OF SOCIETY WITH REGARD TO DEVIANT BEHAVIOR: 'NOR DOEB SOCIETY LIGHTLY ACCEPT THESE REPUDIATIONS OF ITS VALUES. TO DO SO WOULD BE TO PUT THESE VALUES INTO QUESTION.' HE GOES ON, IN HIS SOCIAL THEORY AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE, TO SPEAK MORE SPECIFICALLY, USING ECONOMIC DEVIANCE AS AN EXAMPLE, SO PLEASE FORGIVE

MY PARAPHRASING, 'THOSE WHO HAVE ABANDONED THE QUEST FOR "WHAT SOCIETY VALUES" ARE RELENTLESSLY PURSUED TO THEIR HAUNTS BY A SOCIETY INSISTENT UPON HAVING ALL ITS MEMBERS ORIENT THEMSELVES TO "THE SOCIALLY CORRECT VALUES."' (P. 154)

"THE POLICE ARE ONLY THE AGENTS OF SOCIETY AND AS SUCH MUST AND WILL FOLLOW ITS DICTATES. ROBERT LINDNER, PSYCHOLOGIST AND AUTHOR OF THE FIFTY-MINUTE HOUR, PUTS IT THIS WAY: 'BECAUSE THESE (HOMOSEXUAL) DESIRES ARE SEXUAL AND OUR CIVILIZATION IS ESSENTIALLY ANTI-SEXUAL, AND BECAUSE THESE DESIRES CAN BE GRATIFIED ONLY IN A HIGHLY PARTICULARIZED FASHION CONSIDERED INIMICAL TO ITS VERY STRUCTURE, SOCIETY RESPONDS TO THEM IN A MANNER THAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS UNCOMPROMISINGLY HOSTILE.' (MUST WE CONFORM? PP. 45-6)

"I THINK YOU ARE HIDING YOUR HEAD IN THE SAND IF YOU THINK THERE IS GOING TO BE ONE IOTA MORE UNDERSTANDING. YOU HAVE OVERLOOKED THE FACT THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEAL MORE HERE THAN SIMPLY THE OVERT ACTIONS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE. NOT TO LOOK BELOW THE SURFACE IS AN ATTEMPT TO CORRECT THE SYMPTOM WITHOUT TREATING THE CAUSE."

P.S., CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

"I GET THE WEEKLY OVERSEAS EDITION OF THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN, PERHAPS ONE OF THE THREE MOST SOBER AND RELIABLE NEWSPAPERS IN THE WORLD. IN A RECENT NUMBER THEY WERE REPORTING ON A NEW PHASE (OR EXPANSION) OF THE FAMOUS HYDE PARK TUB-THUMPERS OR SPEAKERS. IT APPEARS THAT THERE HAD BEEN A RECENT EXTENSION OF THEIR ALLOTTED SPACE, AND THE PAPER HAD SENT A REPORTER TO WRITE ON ANY NEW DEVELOPMENT. THERE (AS NO DOUBT YOU KNOW) YOU MAY EXPATIATE FREELY ON ANY SUBJECT YOU LIKE - COMMUNISM, ATHEISM, 'DOWN WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY!' - NO MATTER HOW HAIR (OR HARE) BRAINED, SO LONG AS YOU DO NOT ADVOCATE OR ATTEMPT TO INITIATE VIOLENCE. THE BOBBY STANDING NEAR WILL PROTECT YOU IF THE CROWD RESENTS WHAT YOU SAY. WELL, IN THIS CASE, THE REPORTER SAID THAT OUT OF CURIOSITY HE STROLLED OVER TO QUITE A LARGE AND ATTENTIVE CROWD, AND WAS FLOORED TO FIND THE SPEAKER HOLDING FORTH, SOBERLY AND SERIOUSLY, ON HOMOSEXUALITY. HE SAID THE SPEAKER WAS GOOD, CLEAN AND TO THE POINT, AND SO ALSO WAS THE CROWD WITH THEIR QUESTIONING.

ALL WAS GONE OVER IN THE PLAINEST LANGUAGE, WITH NO BOWDLERISING OR PUSSY-FOOTING NICETIES. HE SAID HE WAS ASTONISHED."

F. B., CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

"I'VE RECEIVED THE ISSUE OF JULY, AND I'VE READ WITH INTEREST IN 'DOB CONVENTION' THE RELIGIOUS POINT OF VIEW OF THE REV. EASTBURN.

"RECENTLY ORDAINED MINISTER, I THINK I'M ABLE TO GIVE A DIFFERENT OPINION. I'VE NOT AS LONG TIMES IN THE MINISTRY AS THE REV. EASTBURN, BUT PERHAPS I'VE MORE EXPERIENCE CONCERNING HOMOSEXUAL PROBLEMS.

"... OFTEN THE MORAL OF CHURCHES IS BORN FROM THE HEBRAIC MORAL, MORAL OF TABOOS. THIS MORAL CONDEMNED ALL PRACTICES WHICH DIDN'T CONCUR IN THE PROPAGATION OF THE RACE; IS THE REASON CONDEMNING MASTURBATION AND HOMOSEXUALITY.

"BUT NOW, WE'VE PASSED THE ERA OF RACES AND WE'VE ATTAINED THE ERA OF THE UNIVERSALITY. IN OUR OVER-PEOPLED WORLD, THOSE TABOOS ARE OUT OF DATE...

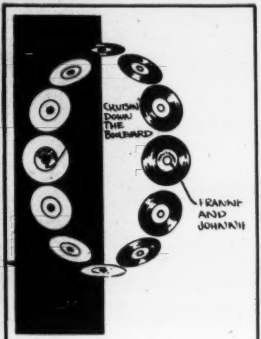
"INSTEAD OF THE GOD PUNISHING APPEARS THE GOD UNDERSTANDING. THE TRUE CHRISTIAN ETHIC IS BASED ON THE LOVE...CONDEMNING ONLY THAT WHICH IS DETRIMENTAL FOR OTHERS.

"I BELIEVE THE HOMOSEXUALITY IS A PART OF THE NATURAL ORDER, AND TO CONDEMN IT WOULD BE UNNATURAL, AND WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO CONDEMN THE NATURAL PLAN, THE DIVINE PLAN.

"A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST WROTE RECENTLY: 'THE HOMOSEXUAL HAS NOT THE TASK TO DESTROY HIS TENDENCY, TO CHANGE HIS NATURE. IF HE IS A TRUE HOMOSEXUAL THAT IS AS IMPOSSIBLE AS TO CHANGE HIS HAIRS' COLOUR.'

"FOR CLOSE, I THINK THE HOMOSEXUAL CAN BE FRANKLY, HONESTLY AMID THE CHURCH. THE MYSTERY OF GOD IS TO LOVE US AS WE ARE."

REV. P. E. LAURENT
PARIS, FRANCE



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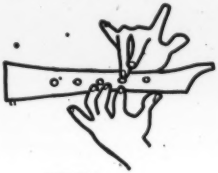

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